The Original Right-Wing Conspiracy Theory

Thomas Benjamin

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Politics

3406

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tragedy: The Holodomor.

The Holodomor is widely accepted as the deadliest famine in European history. At least three million people in the Ukraine perished. As part of The Soviet Union's '*Five-Year Plan*', farm collectivisation had begun in earnest. Just as quickly, that collectivisation began to fail, leading to a series of famines in the east of Russia and the Eastern soviet states.

Because major economies refused to accept Russian Rubles for payment due to the new Bolshevik government's failure to honour the debts of the previous Tsarist regime, the Soviets required a valuable and plentiful commodity to fund their plans for industrialization: grain. Apart from longstanding Tsarist cultural attitudes of Russians considering Ukraine 'belonging' to their empire, it was - and remains - 'The Breadbasket of Europe'. It is a huge stretch of incredibly fertile and topographically suitable land for farming. Thus, it was crucial to The Five-Year Plan that collectivized state farms seized Ukrainian land, and that the smallholders who remained resistant to collectivisation were set strict and exacting targets for grain requisitioned by the state.

When the failures began, Stalin's government invented a scapegoat class. Known as 'Kulaks', these were predominantly landowners who resisted collectivisation, but this broadened into a smear against anyone who opposed the soviet agenda in Ukraine. They were accused of 'grain-hoarding,' burning crops, and sabotaging industrial equipment to stifle the socialist utopia. It was all a lie. However, in the ensuing process of 'Dekulakisation', well over a million Ukrainians were sent to gulags, and hundreds of thousands died.

Thus, when the Holodomor began, there was no one plausibly left to blame. Stalin was made aware of the famine by his officials in Ukraine and was told that the harsh requisitions of grain and excessive targets were the cause. His response was to threaten the officials, blame the Ukrainians, and close the borders, preventing them from fleeing the famine. He used the resulting mass deaths to crush dissent from the Ukrainian Nationalist movement and anti-Soviets more generally.

The facts are now well-established by the historical record: at least three million, and possibly as many as five million Ukrainians were deliberately exterminated by Stalin's USSR. So, why is the famine so little known and so little lamented in the West relative to the crimes of Hitler and the Holocaust of the 1940s? Quite simply, decades of propaganda from the Soviets, suppression of information within the USSR, and a broad unspoken consensus of left-wing sympathisers and useful idiots in government, media, and academia in the West. By the time the whole truth came out after the fall of the Berlin Wall, there was little appetite for outrage, and few were left to be outraged.

The first efforts to report on the tragedy in the West were typical. Malcolm Muggeridge, a *Manchester Guardian* journalist based in Moscow, travelled to Ukraine to investigate rumours of famine without permission from Soviet officials. Appalled at what he saw, he had his report smuggled back to the UK. To protect his safety and the paper's privileges in Moscow, it was published anonymously and in highly redacted form in March 1933.

The first person to name the famine for what it truly was was a Welshman named Gareth Jones. A journalist, adviser to Labour Prime Minister David Lloyd George and the first British journalist to Interview Adolf Hitler, he made several trips to Russia and Ukraine without permission from

Upon returning to Berlin, he penned a press release with graphic depictions of the starvation and death he had witnessed upon his travels, which achieved the first real media outcry in the West about food shortages in the Soviet Union, republished by major publications on both sides of the Atlantic, including Muggeridge's *Guardian* and *The New York Evening Post*.

The backlash was immediate and, as depicted in the 2019 film, *Mr Jones*, scathing. This was particularly pronounced in the most effusive Soviet apologists, including, most significantly, Moscow-based Anglo-American journalist Walter Duranty. Of Jones's report, Duranty wrote in *The New York Times*, "It appeared that he had made a forty-mile walk through villages in the neighbourhood of Kharkov and had found conditions sad. I suggested that that was a rather inadequate cross-section of a big country, but nothing could shake his conviction of impending doom."

Duranty was far from the only villain among Western journalists, particularly the Moscow press corps, who routinely accepted the Soviet line to retain their media privileges. However, he is unique both in the level of his duplicity – he knew about the Holodomor and its causes and routinely joked about it with Western colleagues in private – and in his status as a Pulitzer Prize winner. He had accepted the award one year prior, and to much adulation from his colleagues. Why? For his reporting on the 'successes' of farm collectivisation in the USSR.

Other 'useful idiots' parroted similar lines. The playwright George Bernard Shaw visited the USSR and denounced allegations of famine as 'slanderous' in a letter to *The Manchester Guardian*. Beatrice and Sidney Webb, founders of The Fabian Society and the London School of Economics, returned encouraged by a two-month expedition to Russia, declaring, 'the early difficulties of collectivisation had been overcome.'

These myths of the cultural elite persisted in some left-wing circles and, in some cases, beyond the fall of the USSR. Those who repudiated them were either ignored or denigrated – particularly after WWII – as 'fascists', 'Nazis', and 'Hitlerites'. The tactics of the leftist elite remain strikingly similar to this day, but a relatively free internet means that, for now at least, they no longer take six decades to debunk.

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Comments (9)

Hammurabi VI 23rd Jan at 02:30 pm

I'd be willing to bet that a similar set of circumstances played out in Rome when the Germanic tribes began migrating into Gaul.

Jakub Lulek 23rd Jan at 12:48 pm

Before WWII, so many journalists were cheering Nazis on. And don't get me started on Mussolini.

Lee O'Neill 23rd Jan at 06:07 am

Boils my blood to know most of the modern woes on race, competency, gender, and so on, have all been tried before and have failed utterly. Yet they still try scheming, lying and cheating. I do not know
...

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Joshua Liu 22nd Jan at 04:55 pm (edited)

Good article on the Holodomor. It's a shame that leftists often dismiss right-wing view points out of hand.

But I would argue that a good chunk of modern 'right-wing conspiracy's' *lack humility
...

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7 Replies

Cyrill Portmann 22nd Jan at 04:55 pm

good read. i wasn't aware of these western collaborateurs of the holodormor

I hope CA gets Nuke first

Noah Roberts 22nd Jan at 11:06 am

God I hate Ca

Featured

175 1

Analysis

Ignorance Clad In Authority: William James, The Cult of Scientism, and the Will to Believe

"A lot of what you're seeing as attacks on me, quite frankly, are attacks on science," said Dr. Anthony Fauci in the summer of 2021. In a more recent interview with the BBC (December 2023), Fauci explained that practicing Catholicism

By **Shawn Higgins**

24th Jan at 11:00 am

1K 30

Brokenomics

PREMIUM: Brokenomics | Islam - with Robert Spencer

Dan talks to Robert Spencer of Jihad Watch about the prospects of successfully integrating Islam into the global world. Reading List

By **Dan Tubb** and **Thomas Nicholas**

23rd Jan at 03:00 pm

Trending

Premium

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Welcome to “The 200bn Question” podcast, where the lads dive into the realm of possibilities with an imaginary 200 billion pounds. Join the conversation as they explore game-changing ideas, philanthropic endeavours, and innovative solutions that could reshape the world -

By **Carl Benjamin**, **Jonathan Wong**, **Connor Tomlinson**, **B.B. Dade** and **Josh Ferme**

18th Jan at 03:00 pm

Society

The Myth of the Sigma Male

In recent times, it has become fashionable for certain outlets of dubious quality to harp on about a new type of male: The Sigma Male. Take Glamour UK’s Bianca London, for example. She recently suggested that males “who identify as sigma often enjoy their own company” and “don’t conform to societal norms. Instead, they act as sort of lone wolves.” They are, more often than not, "honourable, charismatic and

By **John Mac Ghlionn**

17th Jan at 11:00 am

1K 30

Brokenomics

PREMIUM: Brokenomics | Islam - with Robert Spencer

Dan talks to Robert Spencer of Jihad Watch about the prospects of successfully integrating Islam into the global world. Reading List

By **Dan Tubb** and **Thomas Nicholas**

23rd Jan at 03:00 pm

Premium

1K 15

This week Beau and Carl discuss the early and middle reign of King Henry III, including the regency period when he was a child, his ongoing troubles with France, the Papacy, and his own tumultuous baronage.Reading List

By **B.B. Dade**, **Carl Benjamin** and **Jack Furness**

21st Jan at 01:00 pm

Premium

2K 54

Brokenomics

PREMIUM: Brokenomics | Behavioural Economics

Josh explains to Dan what Behavioural Economics is and why it has become the default mode of modern government.

By **Dan Tubb**, **Josh Ferme** and **Jack Furness**

16th Jan at 03:00 pm

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Politics

Undoing the Post-War Paradigm

In the Tory canon of post-war British Prime Ministers, no name looms larger than that of Margaret Thatcher. However, despite her radical reputation, her failure to completely dismantle the assumptions and institutions of the post-war consensus leaves her party's subsequent

By **Thomas Benjamin**

10th Jan at 11:00 am

904 18

Global financial markets will experience panic attacks at the mere thought of conflict. However, when shipping companies declare that they are rerouting their fleets around the Horn of Africa, bypassing the Suez Canal, there is only a slight reaction. At

By **A. J. Rees**

19th Jan at 11:00 am

Politics

The Pyre of Progress: British Technocrats to Burn Our Ancestral History

As the Justice Ministry considers making savings by destroying historical legal documents, Alexander Adams finds the left and right uniting to oppose the idea.Earlier this month, the English and Welsh Justice Ministry floated the idea of digitising its massive national archive of wills, which it is required by law to conserve. So far, so unobjectionable. However, upon reading the consultation proposition in full,

By **Alexander Adams**

5th Jan at 11:00 am

3K 16

Politics

On Saviour Complexes

The right has a saviour complex, and it's a big problem. Unlike the left's saviour complex, where the leftist believes him – or her – or they/themself to be the saviour, an anointed agent of deliverance from injustice, oppression, capitalism,

By **Raw Egg Nationalist**

29th Dec, 2023 at 11:00 am

1K 13

Last week, a coalition government under liberal Donald Tusk was installed in Poland. Concerned conservatives in the cultural sector spoke to Alexander Adams, who believes their situation holds lessons for those outside of Poland.While the culture wars are often dismissed in the West as a “right-wing talking point” or a diversion from the progressivist technocracy’s increasing grip on daily life, Poland is currentl…

By **Alexander Adams**

22nd Dec, 2023 at 11:00 am

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